



2016 Theme: “My Voice, My Vote”

Promote the Vote is a comprehensive voter education program created to teach and empower a new generation of enthusiastic voters. This year’s campaign will highlight the importance of voting and how one vote truly can make a difference in each and every election. The lessons and activities provided will focus on this year’s upcoming presidential election and the candidates who will be on the ballot.

Student Contests

All students in classrooms enrolled in the 2016 Promote the Vote program are encouraged to submit entries in as many categories as they wish. Contests are judged by working professionals in the appropriate fields.

Entries are due on December 5th and winners will be honored in a ceremony at the Mississippi State Capitol in February 2017.

- **Visual Arts Categories:**

K- Grade 3

Illustration: “Mississippi-Home Sweet Home” Illustrate what makes you think of Mississippi and why you love your State.

Grades 4-6

Illustration: “Mississippi-Home Sweet Home” Illustrate what makes you think of Mississippi and why you love your State.

Grades 7-9

Illustration: “Mississippi-Home Sweet Home” Illustrate what makes you think of Mississippi and why you love your State.

Campaign Poster: “Vote for ME” - Design a campaign poster for your own political campaign for President of the United States. Include your campaign slogan and information on your qualifications and/or key issues.

Editorial Cartoon: - Draw an editorial cartoon about a political issue being discussed by the 2016 presidential candidates. Attach: 1) a news article found in digital or print media that provided the inspiration for your illustration; and, 2) a short explanation of the purpose of your political cartoon and the technique/tools you used to illustrate your point of view.

Grades 10-12

Illustration: “Mississippi-Home Sweet Home” Illustrate what makes you think of Mississippi and why you love your State.

Campaign Poster: “Vote for Me” - Design a campaign poster for your own political campaign for President of the United States. Include your campaign slogan and information on your qualifications and/or key issues.

Editorial Cartoon: “Political Issue” - Draw an editorial cartoon about a political issue being discussed by the 2016 presidential candidates. Attach: 1) a news article found in digital or print media that provided the inspiration for your illustration; and, 2) a short explanation of the purpose of your political cartoon and the technique/tools you used to illustrate your point of view.

- **Writing Categories:**

Grades 7-9

Essay: If I Were Elected President, I Would...” – Write an essay (500-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected as President of the United States of America. Choose and research what authority or sphere of influence that position is assigned and then identify an issue or situation that you would have the authority and influence to address or change.

Editorial: “Fix It” - Identify what you consider to be one of the most critical problems in the United States of America. Write an editorial column (250-word maximum) that describes the problem and your proposal for how our elected officials should work toward resolving it.

Grades 10-12

Essay: If I Were Elected President, I Would...” – Write an essay (500-word maximum) about what you would accomplish if you were elected as President of the United States of America. Identify key problems or issues you would address and explain the details of your proposed solutions.

Editorial: “The Most Important Thing America Needs to Do Is...” – Identify what you consider to be one or more of the top issues facing our Country in the next four years. Write an editorial column (250-word maximum) describing the problem(s) or issue(s) and outline your proposal for how our elected officials should address or tackle that issue.

- **Persuasion**

Grades 7-12

Oratory: “If I Were Elected as President, I Would...” - Write and videotape an oral presentation of a 10-minute campaign speech about what you would work to accomplish if you were elected as President of the United States of America.

Advertising: “Vote for Me” - Write and digitally record a 60-second television commercial and a 30-second radio spot to persuade voters to elect you as President of the United States of America.

Political Campaign: “Vote for Me” - Design a package of campaign materials (posters, brochure, advertisements, radio/TV commercials, push cards) for your own political campaign for President. Identify your key issues, your stance on current events, your suggestions for improving government, etc. Discuss what characteristics and background you have that qualify you to hold office. Choose your campaign colors and symbols. Write a brief description of how your print media campaign would help inform and persuade potential supporters to vote for you.

Curriculum and Lesson Plans

- Grade-Level Lesson Plans – Elementary; Middle School; High School
- Supplementary Materials
- Activity Sheets: A downloadable series of activity sheets (similar to Weekly Reader) will be posted to the Promote the Vote website to provide fun activities and articles for students to explore to help teach them about the upcoming elections and the voting process.

Mock Election

Your students will each cast a ballot for the next President of the United States of America.

Mock Election Ballot: We will post a one-sheet, downloadable ballot on the PTV website at the end of September to enable teachers to give students the opportunity to vote in the Mock Election using a ballot similar in format to the one used in the 2016 General Election. Teachers will then tally and transmit their classroom/school vote totals via email to ptv@sos.ms.gov to be included in the statewide Mock Election.

School-wide Participation: We encourage all Mississippi public school districts as well as all private schools to encourage participation in the Promote the Vote Mock Election at a school-wide level, rather than offering the opportunity only in specific classrooms or grade levels. Just as increased voter participation is needed in regular elections to insure the voice of the people is accurately reflected at the ballot box, all students should be encouraged to participate in the Mock Election. In doing so, educators will be able to emphasize the importance for all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

SCHOOLWIDE/COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Candidate Forums
Voter Registration Drives
Don't Forget to Vote Campaigns
Mock Campaign Debates
School-wide Mock Elections
Vote in Honor of a Veteran